WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Imposition of a ban on retrenchment of workers

*344. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to impose a ban on the retrenchment of employees and workers in the private and the public sectors in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are no provisions in the Industrial Disputs Act, 1947, under which any such general ban can be imposed. The protection enjoyed by workemen in respect of retrenchment have been set out in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Prices of Vanaspati and Edible oils

*346. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wholesalers and retailers of vanaspati and edible oils do not pass on to the consumers the discounts offered by the manufacturers and that there is a marked variation in the prices of vanaspati sold at the different outlets, i.e. Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandars, etc.; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the benefits of the discounts offered by the manufacturers of vanaspati and edible oils are passed on to the consumers and also to check the price variations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) At times, for the purpose of promoting business, the manufacturers of vanaspati and edible oils offer schemes and discounts to consumers on their products, over and above the commission to the wholesalers and retailers. Incentives meant for consumers are generally marked on containers so that he may claim the same while buying. The prices of vanaspati, may vary due to factors such as sale and distribution cost etc., but shall not exceed the maximum retail price printed on the containers.

(b) As per Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, the maximum retail price (excluding local taxes) is required to be marked on consumer packs. In case of vanaspati, the price marked on the packs is the maximum retail price agreed between the Government and the industry from time to time. Besides, periodic dialogue is held with the trade and industry to see that interest of consumers is protected.

Performance of the National Film Development Corporation

*347. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of the National Film Development Corporation has been poor in the export of films;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a Committee to inquire into the working of this organisation and to suggest improvement in its drawbacks and if not, the reasons thereof?